
IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached Replacement Sheet of Drawing Figure 4 corrects the shape of an outermost circumference of the fixed bushing 6 and shows lead lines of the thickness t of the coupler pin hole 43.

REMARKS

This Amendment is a full and timely response to the Office Action dated February 3, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter claimed in claim 5. Claim 5 is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Maguire et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,173). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Maguire teaches a link for a track chain assembly of a track type work machine that includes a body member having a first side, a second side, a first aperture defined therethrough and a second aperture defined therethrough. The link also includes a first extension member extending outwardly from the first side of the body member. The first extension member has a point P1 defined thereon. The link also includes a second extension member extending outwardly from the first side of the body member. The second extension member has a point P2 defined thereon. The link also includes a third extension member extending outwardly from the first side of the body member. The third extension member has a point P3 defined thereon. The first extension member, the second extension member and the third extension member are spaced apart from each other. In addition, the point P1 defined on the first extension member, the point P2 defined on the second extension member and the point P3 defined on the third extension member define a first plane.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a track for use in a track-type vehicle that includes a track link, a coupler pin, a rotatable bushing, a coupler pin hole, a bushing hole and a fixed

bushing. Claim 1 recites that the track link has a combination of external links and internal links with the external links and the internal links being interlinked right and left relative to a width direction of a track. Claim 1 also recites that the coupler pin interlinks the external link and internal link, the rotatable bushing is interposed between the right and left internal links with the rotatable bushing being supported rotatably on the coupler pin, the coupler pin hole is provided through the external link with an end of said coupler pin being press fitted into the coupler pin hole and the bushing hole is provided through the internal link. Claim 1 also recites that an outermost circumference of the fixed bushing is interfitted completely inside of said bushing hole and the bushing hole of the internal link is formed greater in thickness as viewed in the width direction than the coupler pin hole of the external link.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach an outermost circumference of the fixed bushing is interfitted completely inside of said bushing hole and the bushing hole of the internal link is formed greater in thickness as viewed in the width direction than the coupler pin hole of the external link. By contrast, Maguire, in column 6, lines 27-31, reflects that the inner links 16, 16a and the outer links 18, 18a are substantially identical to each other. Thus, there is no difference of thickness of the bushing holes in Maguire. Also, Maguire shows in Fig. 11, that the insert 36 extends through the bushing hole and an outermost circumference of the fixed bushing is not disposed completely inside the bushing hole as now claimed in claim 1. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 5, as amended, is directed to a track for use in a track-type vehicle that includes a track link, a coupler pin, a rotatable bushing, a coupler pin hole, a bushing hole and a fixed bushing generally as recited in claim 1. Claim 5 recites that the bushing hole part of the internal link is 1.1 to 1.5 times greater in thickness as viewed in the width direction than the coupler pin hole part of the external link.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach the bushing hole part of said internal link is 1.1 to 1.5 times greater in thickness as viewed in the width direction than the coupler pin hole part of the external link. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 8, as amended, is directed to a link that includes a main body part extending longitudinally, laterally and transversely and having a first side surface and a second side surface disposed opposite the first side surface with each side surface extending generally longitudinally and transversely, a pair of boss portions connected at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part on the first side surface and projecting laterally away therefrom and a pair of bushing holes with a respective one of the bushing holes extending laterally through and between respective ones of the boss portions and the first and second side surfaces. Claim 8 also recites that the boss portions have a raised portion extending from near a tread toward a circumferential area of said bushing hole.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 8 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a pair of boss portions connected at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part on the first side surface and projecting laterally away therefrom and a pair of bushing holes with a respective one of the bushing holes extending laterally through and between respective ones of the boss portions and the first and second side surfaces and that the boss portions have a raised portion extending from near a tread toward a circumferential area of the bushing hole. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 8 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to a link that includes a main body part extending longitudinally, laterally and transversely and having a first side surface and a second side surface disposed opposite the first side surface with each side surface extending generally longitudinally and transversely, a pair of boss portions connected at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part on the first side surface and projecting laterally away therefrom, a pair of concavities formed into the second side surface at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part and a pair of coupler pin holes with a respective one of the coupler pin holes extending laterally through and between respective ones of the boss portions, respective ones of the concavities and the first and second side surfaces.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 9 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a pair of boss portions connected at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part on the first side surface and projecting laterally away therefrom, a pair of concavities formed into the second side surface at opposing longitudinal ends of the main body part and a pair of coupler pin holes with a respective one of the coupler pin holes

extending laterally through and between respective ones of the boss portions, respective ones of the concavities and the first and second side surfaces. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5, 6 and 7 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite. For instance, claim 5 recites that the bushing hole part of the internal link is 1.1 to 1.5 times greater in thickness dimension than the coupler pin hole part of said external link

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Maguire in view of Lawson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ronald P. Kananen
Registration No.: 24,104
Attorney for Applicant

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC

Lion Building
1233 20th Street, N.W., Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal
Replacement Sheet of Drawing Figure 4

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